

BILL # HB 2345

TITLE: voter identification

SPONSOR: Gray

STATUS: House Engrossed

REQUESTED BY: House

PREPARED BY: Jake Corey

	FISCAL YEAR		
	2003	2004	2005
EXPENDITURES			
General Fund	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Description

The bill requires a voter, prior to receiving a ballot at the polling place, to present to an election official either a photo identification bearing the name and address of the voter or two different forms of identification bearing the name and address of the voter. If the voter does not have the requisite identification, the voter may still vote, but the ballot will require subsequent verification.

Estimated Impact

JLBC Staff estimates the bill has no state fiscal impact. The Secretary of State believes the bill will not have a state fiscal impact.

Analysis

For state elections, the Secretary of State is required by statute to: 1) Reimburse the counties for the costs of printing, labeling, and mailing sample ballots; 2) Pay for the costs of a recount of votes; 3) Reimburse the counties for the costs of certifying initiative and referendum petition signatures; and 4) Print and mail a publicity pamphlet for any initiative or referendum. For the presidential preference primary, the Secretary of State is required by statute to reimburse the counties (\$1.25 per registered voter) for the costs of conducting the election and certify the results of the election. The bill does not amend or add to these responsibilities.

Local Government Impact

The bill would result in unknown increased costs for the counties. The counties currently verify the ballots of voters whose names are not on the precinct register. In addition to those ballots, the bill would require the ballot of each voter without proper identification to be verified. A.R.S. § 16-584 directs the counties to verify ballots within five business days of the election. Verification, according to the Maricopa County Elections Department, costs approximately \$3.30 per ballot. The per ballot cost is due to additional staff time as well as printing and postage expenditures. The counties must send a letter to each voter whose ballot was verified, informing the voter if the ballot was counted and the reason it was or was not counted. We can not estimate the additional number of ballots that would require verification as a result of the bill, therefore, we can not determine the increased cost for the counties.